Revival of aviation industry

2184. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the international flights from Europe to South East Asia over-fly India because of excessive airport charges and highly priced Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to revive our sick aviation industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) No, Sir. All major European airlines like British Airways, Lufthansa, Air France and KLM etc are operating terminating services to India fully utilizing their entitlements. With long-range aircraft available these days, the international airlines prefer to operate point-to-point services rather than hopping flights *via* intermediate points. This is the reason for European airlines to operate direct flights to India and also to South East Asia overflying India.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Several initiatives like appointment of Naresh Chandra Committee to provide a road-map for the new Civil Aviation Policy; restructuring of two metro airports at Mumbai and Delhi through Joint Venture Route; amendment to the Airports Authority of India Act, 1994 to help financing the proposed new Greenfield airports at Hyderabad and Bangalore; augumentation/replacement of existing fleet; leasing of additional capacity; upgradation of product; cost-control and economy measures; innovative and aggressive marketing schemes etc., have been taken to further improve the health of aviation industry.

Improvement in air services

†2185. DR. AKHTAR HASAN RIZVI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken to improve air links in Leh in Jammu and Kashmir, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.